

Appl. No. 10/579,433
Reply to Office Action dated 3/16/09

Remarks

Favorable consideration of this application is respectfully requested. Applicants' appreciate the Examiner's consideration that claims 9, 10, 14, 23, 24, and 28 are allowable.

Summary of Amendments

Paragraphs at page 4, lines 8-18 of Applicants' original specification are amended to remove reference to specific claims and are replaced with the language of these claims.

Claims 1-28 are canceled in favor of rewritten claims 29-50. Claims 29-50 are added, where independent claims 29 and 40 are allowable claims 9 and 23 rewritten in independent form including all respective intervening claims (previous claims 6, 7, 21, and 20). No new matter has been added. The new claims correspond with the previous claims as follows and where dependencies have been revised accordingly as a result of amending claims 9 and 23 into independent form. Claim 29 corresponds with previous claims 1, 6, 7, and 9. Claims 30-33 correspond with previous claims 2-5. Claim 34 corresponds with previous claim 8. Claims 35-39 correspond with previous claims 10-14. Claim 40 corresponds with previous claims 15, 20, 21, and 23. Claims 41-44 correspond with previous claims 16-19. Claim 45 corresponds with previous claim 22. And claims 46-50 correspond with previous claims 24-28.

Specification Objections

The specification was objected to for referencing claims in the specification. As mentioned above, Applicants have removed references to claims as required by the Examiner, and have added the claim language of the claims referenced which correspond with the claims filed in the preliminary amendment. No new matter has been added. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-4, 6, 7, 11-13, 15-18, 20, 21, 25-27 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wills (US 6,219,623). The rejection is rendered moot, as these claims have been canceled in favor of new claims 29-50. Independent claims 29

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and 40 are allowable claims 9 and 23 rewritten into independent form, where previous claims 9 and 23 were not subject to this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 5 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wills (above) in view of Lynch et al. (US 2004/0145357). Further, claims 8 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wills and Lynch et al. (both above). These rejections are rendered moot, as these claims have been canceled in favor of new claims 29-50. Independent claims 29 and 40 are allowable claims 9 and 23 rewritten into independent form, where previous claims 9 and 23 were not subject to this rejection. Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration of this application in the form of a Notice of Allowance. If any questions arise regarding this communication, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative listed below.



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Respectfully submitted,

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